Top 24 Things To Buy Now (While You Still Can)

In case you haven't noticed, things keep getting worse everywhere you look lately. If you wonder what you can do now, to prepare for an uncertain future, the most effective thing is to take direct actions, to acquire equipment and supplies that will make you more self-reliant. So here is my list of items you should purchase while they are still available (and while they are still for sale at reasonable prices).

LED Lights and Batteries: There are tons of different types of LED lights available now, but I recommend these little LED Headlights from the Dollar Tree store. They are bright, and use common AAA batteries, and for $1.25 each you can buy several and keep one for daily use, and put the extras in your car, and your emergency supplies, packs, and camping gear. You can also order by the case, from their website.

I usually buy my batteries from Harbor Freight Tools, because I like the Thunderbolt brand shown here, and they are currently selling for less than $3 for a pack of 24. These are perfect for use in the LED lights.

Water Filters and Cigarette Lighters: I like the Sawyer brand of water filters, sold at Walmart for between $20 and $30 (depending on type, there are several different models available).

I also like the 7-pack of Scripto lighters shown here, which is currently about $2.35 at Walmart.

Antibiotic Ointment and Bleed Stop: The antibiotic ointment shown here is currently sold at Walmart for only 88 cents per tube, so it is a real bargain.

And Bleed Stop is currently sold at Walmart for approx $4 to $5 per pack. This is an item you should always have on hand when cutting firewood with an axe or chainsaw, or for treating any serious injuries.

Toothache Gel and Emergency Dental Repair Kit: Walmart sells both of these items, currently for approx $3 to $4 each. I like to keep these on hand, in case of dental emergencies.

Safety Glasses and Reading Glasses: Both of these items are sold at the Dollar Tree stores, and both are important for protecting your eyesight. I use the cheap reading glasses when my more expensive prescription ones might get damaged, and I keep several different strengths stored away, for future use.

Gloves and Hand Cream: Gloves are one of the best ways to protect your hands, both from cold weather and from hard labor. And hand cream is a big help, if your hands get dry, or cracked or blistered. Both of these are sold at the Dollar Tree stores.

Tarps and Rope: A tarp has dozens of potential uses, from protecting equipment and supplies to making tarp shelters and improvised bedrolls. I prefer camo tarps, and Harbor Freight sells them for less than most other places, with the smallest (4 foot by 6 foot) size currently selling for approx $3.50.

You can get the rope shown here at the Dollar Tree, but Harbor Freight also sells a camo rope that I like for approx $5, and any rope has hundreds of uses (if you learn how to tie a few basic knots).

Cotton Twine and Fishing Line: A roll of cotton string is handy for many things, including making wicks for improvised lamps, and homemade candles. You can get it at the Dollar Tree stores.

Fishing line is usually monofilament, and is sold at Walmart for as little as $2 per spool. I also like the braided fishing line shown here, which I buy online, in a nice dark forest green color. Besides fishing, it also makes good tripwires and emergency sutures.

Fishhooks and Floral Wire: I like these fishhook assortments, currently sold at Walmart for approx $3.

And the green floral wire shown here is my favorite wire for making small game snares, and it is another Walmart item that is currently between $2 and $3 per pack. Both are good for food-gathering.

Lock Picks: Having a small set of lock picks can really come in handy, since locksmiths may not be available during emergencies. You can buy this simple set from Smoky Mountain Knife Works for approx $3, and with a bit of practice you can help yourself or your friends, if you get locked out.

Ditty Bag: This small nylon toiletries bag is sold at the Dollar Tree stores, and it is a surprisingly durable nylon bag, that is available in woodland camo, and in digital camo (plus many other colors). I like them so much that I bought several, and I use these for small tool bags, and to store and organise small items.

Machete: A heavy chopping knife is an ideal survival tool, and there are dozens of different styles of machetes available for sale. I have a large collection, but am very fond of the Macho Machete shown here.

Knife Sharpener: You need to keep your cutting tools sharp, and a diamond sharpener such as this one is a good way to get the job done. There are many types of diamond sharpeners for sale, but this one is currently $12 at Harbor Freight. It has four different grits, and a convenient plastic base to hold it steady.

Manual Food Grinder: This hand crank food grinder is available on-line for $24, and it can be used to grind grains, to grind meat, and to stuff sausage casings. It is also very lightweight, and stores compactly.

Survival Garden Seeds: I like to buy garden seeds, and to store them in sealed containers with a desiccant pack. You can find some seeds at the Dollar Tree, and some hardware stores and garden centers put them on sale periodically. I also like the heirloom, or open-pollinated seeds, which can be purchased in sealed cans or mylar pouches, from various sources on-line. Some Walmarts have survival food sections, and they may be found with the other cans of survival foods. Cost was approx $35 per can, last time I checked.

Bonus Points: Do you already own basic camping gear ? And does every member of your family (or group of trusted friends) have a complete set, including an individual tent, and cold-weather and rain gear ? Now is the time to find out, and to start acquiring any items that may be missing.

The basic camping gear shown here (and a bit of knowledge on how to use it) makes a person self-reliant for the short term, and it can also keep you alive during unexpected emergencies, if you keep it handy.

Add a few more items for fishing, trapping, and hunting, and processing wild game, and you are all set.

Double Bonus Points: Make a compact hunting kit that contains a break-down 22 rifle, and a 22 pistol, and a decent supply of 22 ammo, and you are well ahead of the game.

Triple Bonus Points: Store your hunting gear in a weather-proof Apache case, or Pelican case, to protect it from the elements. Also makes it easy to cache your equipment, if you need to do that for any reason.